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From: Ervin, Clark <clark.ervin@squirepb.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 2:36 PM
Subject: FW: [EXT] Partner with Korea Act, S. 843 [I-AMS.FID4394142]

Thank you, again, for meeting with me on Friday. You had a couple of questions to which I promised answers.

On the question of what kind of jobs “specialty occupation” jobs are, they have traditionally been ones in STEM fields (like the high-tech industry I mentioned), finance, accounting, and other technical roles. A secretary’s job won’t suffice, and neither will most consulting jobs because employers will generally accept as secretaries or consultants those with a broad of range of degrees. Generally speaking, if one has a degree that directly relates to the job, that person will qualify for that job under the “speciality occupation” rubric. The definition of “speciality occupation” is one requiring a theoretical and practical application of a body of specialized knowledge, and a bachelor’s or higher degree in the specific speciality (or its equivalent).

On the question of where these jobs tend to be geographically, there is no particular geographical prescription, but, as I mentioned, they tend to be in high-tech centers like Silicon Valley, “Silicon Alley” (in NYC), Boston’s “Route 128” corridor, Raleigh-Durham, and Austin, as well as large cities generally, like St. Louis.

Certainly, large Korean companies with operations in the US would make good use of these visas, but any employer in the US would be able to hire an E4 visa holder, as long as the job qualifies as speciality occupation one; the employer registers with the Labor Dept.; and the employer can demonstrate that it pays the required wage.

As for reciprocity, we are aware of no reciprocal Korean visa at this time, but Korea does already permit US citizens to work in Korea under several visa categories.

Finally, I had mentioned that we have a document regarding the closeness of the US-Korean relationship, including comparisons to Australia, which has the similar E3 visa category. Please find it attached.

Let me know please if you have any more questions. We will stand by to hear back from you after you've had a chance to discuss our requests with Sen. Blunt. All best.

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Key Points: U.S.-R.O.K. Relationship

South Korea has been a reliable ally for the entire history of its alliance with the United States.

- Vietnam
 - South Korea contributed over 300,000 troops to South Vietnam.
 - Over 5,000 South Koreans were killed in Vietnam.
 - South Korea formed the second largest army fighting in Vietnam.
 - Australia contributed 60,000 troops to Vietnam.
- First Iraq War
 - Australia contributed 1,800 troops.
 - South Korea contributed over 300 troops.
- Ongoing Iraq War
 - South Korea has contributed at least 3,600 troops throughout the conflict.
 - Australia has contributed at least 2,000 troops to Iraq throughout the conflict.
- Ongoing coalition against ISIS
 - Australia has contributed 200 troops and has conducted air bombings.
 - Singapore has contributed at least 75 troops.
 - South Korea has contributed humanitarian aid.
- Ongoing Afghanistan War
 - Australia has contributed over 26,000 troops to Afghanistan throughout the conflict.
 - South Korea has contributed at least 500 troops to Afghanistan throughout the conflict.
 - Singapore has contributed at least 500 troops to Afghanistan throughout the conflict.
- UN Peacekeeping
 - South Korea has committed “blue helmet” regiments to Somalia, Uganda, and East Timor.

South Korea spends a larger percentage of GDP on defense than *any NATO ally, as well as Australia and Japan.*

- 2018 defense spending as a percentage of GDP (U.S. allies):
 - USA = 3.2%
 - South Korea = 2.6%
 - Turkey = 2.5%
 - India = 2.4%
 - France = 2.3%
 - Australia = 1.9%
 - UK = 1.8%
 - Italy = 1.3%
 - Canada = 1.3%
 - Germany = 1.2%
 - Japan = 0.9%

South Korea’s overall defense spending is #10 in the world and still higher than many U.S. allies.

- 2018 total defense spending:

- 1) USA = \$649 billion
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- 10) South Korea = \$43 billion
- 11) Italy = \$28 billion
- 12) Australia = \$27 billion
- 13) Canada = \$22 billion

- Moreover, South Korea plans to increase its defense budget by more than 7 percent per year for the next five years. *This level of commitment has not been matched by Australia, Japan, or any NATO ally.*

South Korea contributes substantially to U.S. troop presence.

- South Korea pays for about half the cost of maintaining American bases.
- In February of 2019, South Korea agreed to contribute even more to the annual cost of U.S. troop presence.
- South Korea paid 90% of the \$10.8 billion cost of Camp Humphreys, the largest U.S. base overseas.

Likewise, the U.S. maintains almost ten times as many American troops in South Korea as Australia.

- U.S. troop presence, globally:
 1. Japan = 56,000
 2. Germany = 35,000
 3. South Korea = 26,000
 - ?. Australia = 3,000

South Koreans are deeply embedded in American society.

- There are currently between 1.8 million and 2.5 million Americans of Korean descent.
- There are currently 1 million Korean immigrants residing in the U.S.

South Korea is the third largest source of international students in the U.S.

- 2018/2019 school year:
 1. China = 369,000
 2. India = 202,000
 3. South Korea = 52,000

South Korea's population doubles Australia.

- South Korea = 51 million
- Australia = 25 million

South Korea has a larger economy than Australia.

- GDP (Purchasing power parity):
 - South Korea = \$2 trillion
 - Australia = \$1.2 trillion